

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05
ACDA-12 MCT-01 HA-05 EUR-12 AF-10 /111 W
-----042783 131847Z /75

O R 131641Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4417
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T PARAMARIBO 861

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL LA CU UR NS
SUBJ: LA REACTION TO SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA

REF: A. STATE 148740; B. PARAMARIBO 793

1. EMBASSY WISHES TO DRAW DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO
REF B WHICH REPORTED MINISTER PRESIDENT ARRON'S VIEWS
TO THE EFFECT THAT SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN
AFRICA REPRESENTED "INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS"
OF MANY OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED, AS WELL AS HIS EXPRESSION
OF "DEEP CONCERN" ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT CONTINENT.
NONETHELESS, IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT GOS WOULD
HAVE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS AS TO WAYS OF HANDLING THE
RESULTING PROBLEMS THERE.

2. GOS INTEREST IS PROMPTED IN LARGE MEASURE BY POLICY
QUESTION WHICH DIRECTLY CONFRONTS SURINAM, NAMELY,
WHETHER CUBAN REQUESTS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
SHOULD BE GRANTED. IN RECENT CONVERSATION, FOREIGN AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR HEINEMANN TOLD CHARGE THAT CUBA IS
PRESENTLY ONE OF HIS MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS.
HEINEMANN SAID THAT WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR IN

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MARCH HE HAD PUT THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS "INTO THE FRIG," ADDING THAT HE DID NOT
THINK THE CLIMATE WAS RIGHT TO ENTER INTO
RELATIONS WITH CUBA. HE OBSERVED THAT SOMENHAD
URGED THE GOS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS AFTER INITIAL
EFFORTS BY THE U.S. TO IMPROVE RELATIONS
WITH CUBA BUT THAT RECENT U.S. STATEMENTS

REFLECTED A NEW SITUATION. AT ANY RATE,
CONCLUDED HEINEMANN, HE WANTS TO HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
FROM HIS MISSION TO THE UN AND THE OAS AS WELL AS
FROM THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT BEFORE CONSIDERING ANY
MOVES IN THE DIRECTION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS.

3. SURINAM HAS SHOWN GREAT CAUTIOUSNESS IN DEALING
WITH THE CUBANS EVER SINCE ITS INDEPENDENCE IN 1975.
EXCEPT FOR A SMALL AMOUNT OF TRADE (SUGAR FROM CUBA,
WOOD PRODUCTS FROM SURINAM), AN ACCOSIONAL SPORTS
EVENT, AND RECENT EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE A SURINAMESE
DELEGATION TO THE UPCOMING WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL--AND
IN SPITE OF REPEATED APPROACHED BY THE CUBANS TO
OPEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS--THERE ARE NOT MANY CONTACTS
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT
THE GOS WILL CONTINUE TO LIE LOW ON THIS MATTER WHILE
HOLDING OFF THE CUBANS UNLESS AND UNTIL
THEY ARE SATISFIED THAT CUBAN INTENTIONS ARE
NOT CONTRARY TO THE MAINTENANCE OF SURINAM'S
PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY, COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS,
AND ITS BASICALLY MIDDLE-CLASS ECONOMIC AND
POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY.
LORTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARAMA00861
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780247-0255
Format: TEL
From: PARAMARIBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780665/aaaaceai.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d553498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 148740, 78 PARAMARIBO 793
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2373426
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LA REACTION TO SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA
TAGS: MPOL, PEPR, XA, CU, UR, NS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d553498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014